

What is claimed is:

1. An alarm clock system, comprising:
a microphone for sensing sound; and
at least one processor for processing the sound to determine voice commands, and for
5 generating an alarm signal based on the voice commands.
2. A system of claim 1, further comprising a real time clock for tracking time for the alarm clock system, the alarm signal being generated at a time of the real time clock.
3. A system of claim 1, further comprising a speaker responsive to the alarm signal to generate audible sound.
- 10 4. A system of claim 3, further comprising a radio for generating at least one of music and news as the audible sound.
5. A system of claim 1, further comprising a battery for powering the system.
6. A system of claim 1, further comprising a modular housing for encasing and protecting the processor, and a communications link between the housing and the
15 microphone.
7. A system of claim 6, the communications link comprising an electronic wire for positioning the microphone remotely from the housing.
8. A system of claim 6, the communications link comprising a wireless relay for positioning the microphone remotely from the housing.
- 20 9. A system of claim 1, the processor comprising a speech synthesis processor to recognize voice data.
10. A system of claim 9, the processor being configurable to initial programming, to identify audible words as voice commands after the initial programming.
- 25 11. A system of claim 10, further comprising memory for storing digital data representative of the voice commands.
12. A system of claim 1, further comprising a wireless transmitter for communicating the alarm to a remote electronic device.
13. A system of claim 12, further comprising an electronic device having a wireless receiver and selected from the group of radio, television, compact disc player, DVD
30 player, satellite cable box, cooking thermometer device, hair treatment device, a light switch, an air conditioner, an A/C socket, a coffee machine, or a VCR.

14. A system of claim 1, further comprising a display for showing time and date information.

15. A system of claim 1, further comprising an A/D converter for digitizing the sound for the processor.

5 16. A method for generating an alarm, comprising the steps of : automatically sensing sound through a microphone; electronically processing the sound to determine one or more voice commands; and generating an alarm at a time set by the voice commands.

10 17. A method of claim 16, the step of generating an alarm comprising generating an audible noise through a speaker.

18. A method of claim 16, the step of generating an alarm comprising generating music through a speaker.

19. A method of claim 16, the step of sensing sound comprising sensing sound at a location remote from the step of processing the sound.

15 20. A method of claim 16, the step of electronically processing comprising processing the sound and comparing the processed sound to stored data from a learning sequence.

21. A method of claim 16, the step of generating an alarm comprising the step of generating a wireless signal to a remote electronic device.

20 22. A method of claim 21, further comprising the step of activating or deactivating the electronic device upon receipt of the wireless signal.

23. A method of claim 16, further comprising the step of initiating the step of processing the sound by detecting an initializing audible voice command.

25 24. A method of claim 23, the initializing audible voice command comprising "Voice command."

25. A method of claim 23, further comprising the step of stopping the step of processing the sound by detecting a terminating audible voice command.

26. A method of claim 25, the terminating audible voice command comprising "Manual setting."

30 27. An A/C power socket, comprising:
a plug for coupling the A/C power socket to A/C power;
a receptacle for accepting a plug from an external electronic device;

a microphone for sensing sound;

at least one processor for processing the sound to determine voice commands, and for generating a signal based on the voice commands; and

means for disconnecting and alternatively connecting the A/C power to the external device in response to the signal.

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28. An A/C power socket of claim 27, the means for disconnecting and alternatively connecting comprising a power switch.

29. A process for setting date and time of an alarm clock system through voice-control, comprising the steps of:

10 sensing engagement of a button of the alarm clock system, the button being designated, at least in part, for setting date and time; if the button is engaged, automatically and sequentially sensing and storing audible sounds emanating from the user, the audible sounds comprising a plurality of (1) AM or PM, (2) hour of the day, (3) minute of the day, (4) year, (5) month, and (6) day; and

15 automatically setting the date and time within the alarm clock system based on the audible sounds.

30. A process of claim 29, the step of automatically and sequentially sensing and storing comprising providing a delay interval between successive audible sounds.

20 31. A process of claim 30, the delay interval being at least four seconds.

32. A process of claim 31, the delay interval being eight seconds.

33. A process for setting an alarm for an alarm clock system through voice-control, comprising the steps of:

25 sensing engagement of a button of the alarm clock system, the button being designated, at least in part, for setting an alarm; once the button is engaged, sensing and storing audible sounds emanating from the user; and

automating alarm functions of the alarm clock system based on future use of the audible sounds.

30 34. A process of default programming in an alarm clock system through voice-control, comprising the steps of:

entering a learning mode of the alarm clock system;

prompting the user to speak one word of a sequence of words;
capturing and storing audible sounds corresponding to the user's speech of the one
word;
if additional words exist in the sequence of words, repeating steps (2) and (3) to sense
5 and store audible sounds of every other word in the sequence of words;
exiting the learning mode; and
responding to the audible sounds corresponding to one or more of the sequence of
words to set time, date and to initiate automatic action within and by the alarm
clock system.

10 35. A process of claim 34, the sequence of words comprising one or more of the
following: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ... 10, 11...20, 30, 40, 50, AM, PM, VOICE SETTING, and VOICE
COMMAND.

15 36. A process of claim 31, the step of prompting comprising one or both of (a)
displaying information on a display of the alarm clock system and (b) electronically
synthesizing human speech encouraging the user to speak.